GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:587
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
RURAL AREAS FOR BILLING
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas which have been declared rural in Kerala after January, 2002 for phone billing and other facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are many other rural areas which are not considered for phone billing and other facilities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) to (c): As per the Census-2001 Report, places other than the following are rural areas:

```
Those with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area, or
Those satisfying the following criteria:
Minimum population of 5000,


At lease 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural pursuits, and
Density of population of at least 400 per sq. km. (1000 per sq. mile).
```

The areas in Kerala classified as rural as per this definition are considered for phone billing at concessional rural tariff.

(d) to (f): Yes, sir. The Complaints have mainly been of the following nature:

(i) Customers disputing the classification made by the Census of India.

(ii) As per the Census Report, in certain cases, certain wards of a Panchayat arerural and others urban. When both these areas are served from the same telephone exchange, customers complain differential treatment in application of tariff.

However all complaints are examined and appropriate action taken as per extant rules.